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Captains call: Temba Bavuma (SA), Babar Azam (Pakistan), Jos Buttler (England), Scott Edwards (Netherlands), Dasun Shanaka (SL), Shakib Al Hasan (B'desh), Rohit Sharma (India), Pat Cummins (Australia), Hashmatullah Shahidi (Afghanistan) & Kane Williamson (N Zealand) in Ahmedabad

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CRICKET AND CARNIVAL

10 teams. 10 venues. 48 games. With the 2023 ICC ODI World Cup getting underway on Thursday, a look at key talking points

STOKES IN DOUBT FOR OPENER

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson is set to miss the opener against England in Ahmedabad. As for England, captain Jos Buttler said Ben Stokes won't play due to a hip niggle

INDIA AS SOLO HOSTS

While India have co-hosted three WCs before (1987, 1996, 2011), it will be the first time they are hosting the tournament all by themselves. And the newest power centre, Ahmedabad, will play a key role as most marquee clashes will be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium

ROHIT & CO. LOOK TO END TROPHY DROUGHT

A decade has passed since India won an ICC trophy. As for captain Rohit Sharma, this WC is one trophy that has eluded him. Both the captain and the team would be itching to win at home. If the trend from the past 13 years continue (home team winning WCs), they might have a chance

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NUMBER OF DAYS THE 2023 ODI WORLD CUP WILL BE PLAYED

I know what is at stake. The guys who are part of the team know what is at stake. For us, it is about taking everything out and focussing on what we want to do as a team — Rohit Sharma, India captain

I don't see us as defending champions. We're very much in the same boat as everybody sat here on the eve of the tournament trying to win it — Jos Buttler, England captain

LAST TEN-TEAM WORLD CUP

This could be the last 10-team tournament with the 2027 edition in South Africa set to feature 14 teams, similar to that of the 2015 edition. The 2019 and 2023 editions featured 10 teams | **MORE ON P17**

Week's plan

LIVE ON TV/OTT PLATFORM

- **Oct 5:** England vs New Zealand, Ahmedabad
- **Oct 6:** Pakistan vs Netherlands, Hyderabad
- **Oct 7:** Afghanistan vs Bangladesh, Dharamsala; South Africa vs Sri Lanka, New Delhi
- **Oct 8:** India vs Australia, Chennai

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AAP MP Sanjay Singh being taken into custody by ED officials | PARVEEN NEGI

ED arrests AAP MP Sanjay Singh in liquor scam

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday arrested Aam Aadmi Party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh in connection with a money laundering case linked to the Delhi excise policy. The arrest was recorded after a day-long search at his residence.

The ED officials reached Singh's North Avenue residence early on Wednesday morning. The MP was questioned for hours before being taken into custody.

Singh is considered the second-most powerful politician in AAP after party supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. He is the third AAP leader to be arrested by a central agency. Before him, Manish Sisodia was arrested earlier this year in the excise policy case and Satyendar Jain last year in connection with a separate money laundering case.

Singh's name came up after businessman Dinesh Arora revealed that ₹32 lakh was paid to him to tweak the Delhi liquor policy. Sources said Singh facilitated a meeting between Arora and Sisodia, who was the excise minister then.

EXPRESS READ

30 species in K'taka stare at extinction

Bengaluru: Climate change is one of the biggest threats to amphibians. Accordingly, researchers have found that 30 of these species from Karnataka are threatened | P7

Two Hizbul militants killed in J&K

Srinagar: Two Hizbul militants were killed in a gunfight with forces in Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday. They were identified as Basit Amin Bhat and Saqib Ahmad Lone.

10 DEAD, 81 MISSING IN SIKKIM FLOOD

Search on for 22 Armymen after flash floods in Teesta wreak havoc

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR & JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ Guwahati/New Delhi

The flooded Teesta river in north Sikkim on Wednesday after a sudden cloudburst over the Lhonak Lake | PTI

FLASH floods triggered by a cloudburst over the Lhonak Lake in North Sikkim in the wee hours of Wednesday left at least 10 people dead and 81 others missing, including 22 soldiers. A massive search is underway to locate the missing people.

Earlier in the day, there were reports of 23 missing soldiers. One of them was subsequently rescued and is stable, a defence ministry statement said.

The flooded Teesta either damaged or washed away over a dozen important roads and bridges. North Sikkim remained cut off following the calamity.

The Teesta flows through Sikkim and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang and assured all support.

In a statement, the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority said after a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood in parts of Lhonak Lake, the water level rose with very high velocities downstream along the Teesta basin and caused severe damage in Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong and Namchi districts.

The Chung-thang dam was also damaged. Release of water from the dam led to a sudden increase in water level by 15-20 ft. A defence ministry statement said Army vehicles parked at Bardang near Singtam got trapped in the slush.

Glacial Lake Outburst Flooding occurs due to breaches in glacial lakes as they suddenly release huge amounts of water into nearby streams and rivers. There are 2028 glacial lakes and water bodies measuring more than 10 hectares in the Himalayan region. Of them, over 200 glacial lakes are vulnerable to outburst, according to an estimate.

The National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force and Border Roads Organisation are among agencies deployed in the affected areas in Sikkim.

Over 11,000 people have been affected. The authorities set up some relief camps.

HAL delivers first twin-seater Tejas to Indian Air Force

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Indian Air Force (IAF) got its first twin-seater Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) here on Wednesday.

Terming the development a boost to self-reliance in the defence sector, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt said, "The development of LCA Tejas has also brought about a shift in our approach to defence procurement. It has demonstrated that India has the talent, knowledge and capability to design, develop and manufacture world-class fighter jets."

He said the LCA Tejas project has been an inspiring saga of relentless dedication and innovation. "The inception of LCA Tejas aircraft was rooted in the dream of equipping the Indian Air Force with a world-class indigenous fighter aircraft," Bhatt said.

The development of Tejas spurred the growth of a robust defence and aerospace industry in India, besides creating opportunities for countless SMEs, research institutions, and skilled workers, who have contributed to various aspects of the project, he said. P7

NOBEL

Trio bags award for chemistry

The 3 US scientists' work on quantum dots can contribute to electronics, tiny sensors, thinner solar cells & communication | P14

POLLS AHOY

LPG price cut by ₹100 for Ujjwala users

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE government on Wednesday cut the price of an LPG cylinder by ₹100 for Ujjwala beneficiaries as it gets set to face voters in five states for assembly elections before the end of this calendar year.

This is the second price cut in two months by the Centre. In August, it slashed the price of each cylinder by ₹200 for all consumers. An LPG cylinder for an Ujjwala beneficiary in Delhi will now cost ₹603 while the non-subsidised price is ₹1,103. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana are slated to go to polls within the next couple of months.

Last month, the government extended the Ujjwala scheme to 75 lakh more consumers for over three years. With this addition, the total beneficiaries would come to 10.35 crore.

"The Centre has approved an increase in subsidy amount for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries from ₹200 to ₹300 per LPG cylinder. A lot of development work has been done for the welfare of women and the poor in the past nine years," said Anurag Thakur, Union I&B minister.

According to Emkay Global, the move will cost the exchequer ₹3,600 crore annually. Also, it won't have any impact on oil marketing companies as the subsidy is directly given to the Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries by the government.

FOR SWANKY LOOK

Some ministers still busy sprucing up offices

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

A meeting hall under renovation at Vidhana Soudha | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

"WORK in progress" boards greet those visiting the offices of ministers at Vidhana Soudha. For, renovation of some ministers' offices is still going on although the Congress government came into being four months ago.

The renovation work includes changing of floor tiles, redoing the interiors, painting and getting new furniture.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy DK Shivakumar and a few ministers took oath in the second week of May and the rest by May-end. Soon after the oath-taking ceremony, the ministers were allotted offices in Vidhana Soudha and Vikas Soudha. Most of them occupied their offices in June.

However, Mines and Geology and Horticulture Minister SS Mallikarjun is yet to move into his office. The office space allotted to him on the third floor of Vidhana Soudha is being renovated. An official from the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) told *TNIE* that Mallikarjun was allotted a room nearly four months ago. "He is now getting it renovated by a private contractor and not from the Public Works Department (PWD)," he said. P6

Tamil flavour in Malaysian kabaddi team at Asian Games

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Hangzhou

IT'S not a surprise to hear a smattering of Tamil when Mayalsian men's team play at the Asian Games. That's because as many as 10 players are Tamil Malaysians. "We have 10 Malay Tamilians in the side," team manager Padmanathan Engaittraman told this daily. "They were all born in Malaysia, all of them are either 3rd or the 4th generation."

In fact, kabaddi, according to Engaittraman, travelled to Malaysia from the south of India. "The people who came to Malaysia as workers during the British rule brought kabaddi with them," he said. "They used to play kabaddi in remote areas. After their work, as a sport, kabaddi was there. They used to call it sadugudu."

While that was for recreation, Malaysia began taking interest in kabaddi around the turn of the millenium. Though they need to improve, Malaysia now consider it a 'medal tally sport'. "We started kabaddi in 2000. It's now grown so much that we consider it a medal tally sport. We started with a grassroots programme in schools at the U-12 level. We now have the sport being played in universities and clubs." In fact, the team had a 60-day training camp in Puducherry before the Games. "In Pondicherry, the chief minister, N Rangaswamy, had supported us. We had stayed in the government guest house and got the chance to play against teams from the Sports Authority of India as well as local sides."

As to why it's hugely popular among the Malay Tamilians, Engaittraman, who himself has his roots in south India, said: "When they study in Tamil schools, they give importance to traditional games like silambam and kabaddi. One day in a week, you have to pick between silambam and kabaddi and other traditional games. Kabaddi is already at the Asian Games so there's a propensity to pick kabaddi." MORE ON P17

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NEERAJ GOLD MARK

There was a technical glitch after Neeraj Chopra's first throw. It affected his rhythm but he came back to beat spirited teammate Kishore Jena to gold in a bizarre but intense final. India ended the day with 12 medals